

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Diathermy is widely used for underlying tissue dissection, cutting and haemostasis, but excessive scarring and poor wound healing limits its use for skin incisions. Only few surgeons employ diathermy in making skin incision with fear of producing deep burns and resultant scarring

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES: The present study was done to compare the outcome of diathermy incisions versus steel scalpel incisions in abdominal surgeries with regard to incision time, incision blood loss, , wound infection and scar character. **MATERIALS AND METHODS:** This study was conducted at

Department of General Surgery, Government Rajaji Hospital, and Madurai. A total number of 90 patients were analysed. 45 patients underwent diathermy incisions who were compared with 45

steel scalpel incision patients. **RESULTS:** The present study showed significantly less incision time; less blood loss in diathermy incisions. Post-operative wound infection and scar character were

comparable in both the groups. **CONCLUSION:** Diathermy skin incisions in elective abdominal surgery has significant advantage over scalpel incisions as it results in less incision time, less blood loss and minimal scarring . Diathermy incisions are less harmful to the skin.

KEY WORDS:Diathermy, incisions, scalpel, surgery, wound